

Add-on

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: September 20, 2006

Division: County Administration

Bulk Item: Yes X No

Department: County Administration

Staff Contact Person: T. Willi

AGENDA ITEM WORDING:

Authorization for the County Administrator to initiate inter-facility ground transport between county hospitals and health care providers.

ITEM BACKGROUND:

At the present time, a service does not exist within Monroe County to perform these transports. Recent life-threatening incidents have brought this issue to the forefront. Local hospitals often are forced to utilize private providers from the mainland, which can result in significant transport delays. Revenues will be realized because of performing this service. Off-duty personnel will be utilized as well as volunteer Paramedics. The county has existing capacity within its reserve ambulance fleet to meet this need. Staff will establish a fee schedule to perform this service.

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOCC ACTION:

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT CHANGES:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval to initiate service immediately.

TOTAL COST: TBD

BUDGETED: Yes No X

COST TO COUNTY: TBD

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Fire Salaries

REVENUE PRODUCING: Yes X No **AMOUNT PER MONTH** **Year**

APPROVED BY: County Atty OMB/Purchasing Risk Management

DIVISION DIRECTOR APPROVAL:

Thomas J. Willi

(TYPE NAME HERE)

DOCUMENTATION: Included

Not Required X

DISPOSITION:

AGENDA ITEM # N7

September 15, 2006



Thomas J. Willi
Monroe County Administrator
Suite 205
1100 Simonton Street
Key West, Florida 33050

RE: Monroe County EMS Services

Dear Mr. Willi:

Fishermen's Hospital is a community hospital and as such there are some procedures and disease processes that require a patient be transferred to a larger hospital. Hospitals are responsible to make arrangements for safe transportation in these situations. In most cases, our patients could be transferred by ambulance. Some patients require helicopter transport.

Over the last year, we have been experiencing increased difficulty in obtaining an ambulance to transport these patients. We are repeatedly turned down by Marathon EMS, Monroe County EMS and Key West AMR. Sadly, we are waiting for ambulances to come to Marathon from Homestead, Miami, or Fort Lauderdale to transport these patients. Patients end up waiting seven or eight hours or longer for transportation to another facility. Helicopters are available in some situations but our unreliable weather frequently makes air travel unavailable.

Over the last nine months, we have transferred 236 patients to other hospitals. Thirty seven of these patients were transferred to Lower Keys Medical Center in Key West. Eight patients were transferred to Mariners. Some of these patients had to wait hours for ambulances from outside Monroe County to come and transport them within our county. The other 191 patients were transferred to Miami-area hospitals. A majority of these patients could have gone by ambulance had one been available.

As you and I discussed, Fishermen's Hospital is responsible to transport these patients if they require care at a larger facility. This includes payment for transportation if the patient has no payor source. I am very interested in sitting down with you to discuss the ability for Monroe County EMS to assist us with these transportation issues.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Bassett".

Kim Bassett,
Chief Executive Officer